

## **AEB 6933: Special Topics in Health Economics– Fall 2024**

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**Course Time and Location:** Tuesday (10:40 AM - 11:30 AM, FLI0121); Thursday (10:40 AM - 12:35 PM, LIT 0217)

**Instructor information:** Dr. Di Fang ([difang@ufl.edu](mailto:difang@ufl.edu))

**Office Hours and Location:** McCarty B 1105; Tuesday (10:30-noon); Thursday (10:30-noon); other time by appointment only.

**Course Description (from Catalog):** This course is designed to introduce the concepts of food, nutrition, and health as well as the economic and statistical tools we can apply to study issues in food, nutrition, and health. The course provides an overview of the roles and interests of federal agencies, private-sector firms, and the media relevant to U.S. food policy. We will cover topics including the issues in the US healthcare system, Medicare and Medicaid, demand and supply of health insurance, and comparing international perspectives on health policies and programs used to support global nutrition, health promotion, and wellness goals. Furthermore, the broader impact of food, nutrition, and health on social welfare, gender inequity, education, and poverty worldwide will be discussed. Economic and marketing theories and applied econometric methods will be employed to study these topics as well as in empirical practices.

**Prerequisites:**

**Communication:** in person and via email

**FRE Technology Assistance:** Dave Depatie; 1197 McCarty Hall A; (352) 394-7641;  
E-mail: [ddepattie@ufl.edu](mailto:ddepattie@ufl.edu)

**Teaching Assistant:** n/a

**Expected Student Learning Outcomes:** After the successful completion of AEB 6933, a typical student should be able to:

- identify the economic, political, social and cultural factors that influence U.S. food and nutrition policies and impact national food systems.
- describe major processes and players involved in U.S. food policy development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.
- compare and contrast the federal food and nutrition programs administered by USDA.
- apply economic, statistical, and marketing tools to analyze the US healthcare and food industry.
- understand various issues present in the current US healthcare system and worldwide.
- develop critical thinking regarding systematic differences in the healthcare marketing worldwide.
- understand the importance of sustainable food marketing on global poverty.

## Course Summary/Topics

### Course Materials:

**Text:** Below is a list of preferred textbooks. We will use chapters from these books as well as assigned readings by topic. Slides will be provided.

- Cunningham, S.. Causal inference. In *Causal Inference*. Yale University Press. 2021. E book available at: <https://mixtape.scunning.com/>
- Grossman, Michael. Determinants of health: An economic perspective. Columbia University Press, 2017. AVAILABLE, RA418 .G767 2017.
- Wilde, Parke. Food Policy in the United States: An Introduction. 2018. Second Edition from Routledge/Earthscan. ISBN: 9781138203983.
- Davis, George C., and Elena L. Serrano. Food and Nutrition Economics: Fundamentals for Health Sciences. Oxford University Press, 2016.

**E-learning:** E-learning can be accessed via <http://elearning.ufl.edu> using your Gatorlink username and password. If you are having difficulties accessing E-learning, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk by calling (352)-392-HELP or via email [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

**Computer software:** We will use RStudio to perform all the class exercises and assignments. R runs on Windows, Os X and Linux. It is free to download at:

<https://www.rstudio.com/products/rstudio/download/> R packages can be downloaded at: <https://cran.cnr.berkeley.edu/> , or directly using the script *install.packages* (“name of the package”). The R-bloggers is an excellent website to learn R by yourself and check out other people’s projects: <https://www.r-bloggers.com/how-to-learn-r-2/>.

**Class Structure:** face-to-face

### Course Assignments and Expectations:

#### Grading

	%
Class Participation	20
Assignments (approx.4)	40
Presentation (approx.4)	40
Total	100

### Student Evaluation:

Grade	Percentage	Grade Points
A	93% or more	4.00
A-	90.0 – 92.9%	3.67
B+	86.0 – 89.9%	3.33
B	83.0 – 85.9%	3.00

B-	80.0 – 82.9%	2.67
C+	76.0 – 79.9%	2.33
C	73.0 – 75.9%	2.00
C-	70.0 – 72.9%	1.67
D+	66.0 – 69.9%	1.33
D	63.0 – 65.9%	1.00
D-	60.0 – 62.9%	0.67
E	59.9% or less	0.00

**\*\*Please note that grades are not ‘rounded’ or ‘adjusted’ at the end of the term.\*\***

**Grades and Grade Points:** For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

**Academic Honesty:** As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: “*We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.*” You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “*On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.*” It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>

**Plagiarism:** The Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code states that:

"A Student must not represent as the Student’s own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

- Stealing, misquoting, insufficiently paraphrasing, or patch-writing.
- Self-plagiarism, which is the reuse of the Student’s own submitted work, or the simultaneous submission of the Student’s own work, without the full and clear acknowledgment and permission of the Faculty to whom it is submitted.
- Submitting materials from any source without proper attribution.
- Submitting a document, assignment, or material that, in whole or in part, is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment the Student did not author."

**COVID-19 University Policy:** As Gators, we are characterized by our resilience as well as our commitment to caring for one another. In that vein, the university welcomes – but does not require – people to wear masks on campus. Further, in alignment with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as UF Health, we continue to encourage everyone to

vaccinate to minimize their risk of COVID-19. To learn more about COVID-19 vaccines, testing and related topics, visit [coronavirus.uflhealth.org](https://coronavirus.uflhealth.org).

**Attendance and Make-Up Work:** Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>. In general, you are expected to be in class each day and submit all work on time on e-Learning.

### **Students Requiring Accommodations**

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the [Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

### **Course Evaluation**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students are notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

### **In-Class Recording**

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled.

The only allowable purposes are: (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student

who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

### **University Honesty Policy**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge: “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Conduct Code](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

### **Software Use**

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

### **Student Privacy**

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see the [Notification to Students of FERPA Rights](#).

### **Campus Resources:**

#### **Health and Wellness**

*U Matter, We Care:* If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

*Counseling and Wellness Center:* [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

*Student Health Care Center:* Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).

*University Police Department:* [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

*UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:* For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

## Academic Resources

*E-learning technical support:* Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

*Career Connections Center:* Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

*Library Support:* Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

*Teaching Center:* Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

*Writing Studio:* 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

*Student Complaints On-Campus:* [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.](#)

*On-Line Students Complaints:* [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.](#)

### **Lauren's Promise: I will listen and believe you if someone is threatening you.**

Lauren McCluskey, a 21-year old honors student athlete, was murdered on October 22, 2018, by a man she briefly dated on the University of Utah Campus. We must all take actions to ensure this never happens again. Any form of sexual harassment or violence will not be excused or tolerated at the University of Florida.

If you are experiencing sexual assault, relationship violence, or stalking, you can take the following actions:

- If you are in immediate danger, call 911.
- Report it to me, and I will connect you to resources.
- Seek confidential sources of support and help:
  - [UFPD Office of Victim Services](#): 51 Museum Road, 352-392-5648
  - [Sexual Assault Recovery Services \(SARS\)](#): Infirmary Building, 352-392-1161
  - Alachua County Rape Crisis Center (confidential): 352-264-6760

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:** The University of Florida's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs) supports the University of Florida's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. By fostering a sense of belonging for students, staff, and faculty, while leveraging the uniqueness of the people who study and work at the university, we believe our campus community is enriched and enhanced by diversity, including but not limited to, race, ethnicity,

national origin, gender, gender identity, sexuality, class, and religion. This course will support an understanding of the diversity of our distance and campus communities as well as our agricultural and natural resource communities, locally and globally.

This course will strive to create a learning environment for students that supports a diversity of thoughts, perspectives, and experiences while honoring your identities. In this class we will take the following approaches to help achieve this:

- All course participants will use the names and pronouns provided by students for use in class. If these differ from those that appear in official university records, you can change your Display Name at One.UF.
- If your performance in this course is being impacted by your experiences inside and/or outside the classroom, do not hesitate to contact the instructor and/or teaching assistant (TA). Instructors in CALS are a great resource for you and you may provide feedback anonymously. Feedback may result in general announcements to the class, if necessary, or reporting to appropriate UF personnel to address your concerns.
- CALS instructors and TAs like many people, are still in the process of learning about diverse perspectives and identities. If something was said in class (by anyone) that makes you feel uncomfortable, please discuss with your instructor or TA or contact the CALS Dean's Office ([cals-dean@ufl.edu](mailto:cals-dean@ufl.edu)).

**Schedule:**

Weekly Sample Schedule:

Module	Week	Topic	Assignments
1	1	Review of Econometrics	Assignment 1
2	2-3	Food Policy in the US	
3	4	Food Insecurity	
4	5	Food Environment	Assignment 2
5	6	Diet Quality and Food Labels	
6	7-8	Behavioral Economics in Health	Assignment 3
7	9	The Economics of Pandemics	
8	10-11	US Health Policy	
9	12-13	Insurance	Assignment 4
10	14-15	Social Determinants of Health	

*Note: The instructor reserves the right to change the terms and dates stated in this course syllabus at any time. Any changes will be communicated on e-learning as an announcement. It is solely the student's responsibility to stay informed of any changes.*

*\*\*\*By enrolling in this course, you are agreeing to the terms outlined in this syllabus!!\*\*\**